The Logger's Bark
RADIO CLUB of TACOMA

MARCH 2021 VOLUME 18, ISSUE 03 ©Radio Club of Tacoma W7DK

FROM THE EDITOR!

Great news on two fronts!

First: Many of us have had our shots by now: the Lovely Sue and I (at left in pix: she's the good looking one!) both of us, are fully vaccinated now! Kudo's to the fine folk at covidwa.com for keeping tabs on vaccination opportunities in the state. When I finally got a schedule, Sue wanted to know what kind of shot we were getting. We actually did not know until we showed up and saw the sign that said J&J shots today!

We were happy to get a shot, any shot at this point…

Point the second: as many of you know, the club has been doing all of it's business and meetings online using the "Zoom" online conferencing software/ site. We have also been doing virtual club meetings, including the normal Saturday get together. We've been doing this for at least a year at this point.

So, not too long ago we began thinking about having our first in-person Saturday open house at the clubhouse. We figured that the one year anniversary would be somewhere around the 17th of the month.

After a false start, mostly due to the state making us hold back, we finally got to open the clubhouse at a limited occupancy on Saturday, March 27th! We tried to keep it low key and succeeded! Chef Paul W7PFU cooked up a fine breakfast for all, there were doughnuts and coffee! It was very nice seeing all the fine folks who turned out for the event. Too many to list here. Maybe in a follow up article! I neglected to get a pix of Paul doing his thing. If someone else did, please send me a copy for the newsletter! 73 for now, WG7X

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Radio Club of Tacoma

Board of Directors Meeting

March 3, 2021

ZOOM MEETING

Meeting called to order by Mike W7XTZ at 19:00 local

Officers and Directors Present:

President Mike Mikuchonis W7XTZ

Vice President Adam Barbera W2NCC

Secretary Mike Drorbaugh W7MKE

Treasurer Steve Dightman AF7YD

Board Bruce Hanson WE7P

Board Paul Matney W7PFU

Board Verna Lilly KF7SCB

Board Phil Pia K7PIA

Quorum? A quorum was present and 14 people attended all or part of the meeting.

Silent Key or Illness?

Nothing offered

Approval of Minutes of 2-03-2021 RCT BOD Meeting

Mike-W7XTZ asked if anyone had additions or corrections to the February Board Minutes as circulated and with none offered he declared the minutes approved.

Secretary's Report (Mike - W7MKE)

Usual stuff came in**.** A final copy of our Property Insurance came in from our local agent. I've learned via Doug Schaffer-AB7DG that our IRS 990-E was not filed for 2019. This was news to me and Mike Finney as we thought it had been done but if IRS has no record apparently the filing was deficient. We may get a delinquent fine for 2019. Filings are due in May so I will see to both before then.

Treasurer's Report (Steve - AF7YD)

Currently our cash assets are: $XXXXX. Property Taxes and Personal Property taxes combined are $XXXX this year. To date, we have spent $XXXX more than income. This is pretty normal income/spending for this time of year as major income (except for PMT) happens in the last quarter of the year. Last year we had about $XX K income over spending.

Committee / Reports

Membership (Juan-KJ7GGB)

Membership stands at 248 with about forty 2019 members who haven't renewed this year; this includes promotional members, honorary members and lifetime members. 202 members have renewed.

Mike W7MKE indicated he'd received an application for a promotional membership but hasn't passed it on because the bylaws indicate promotional memberships are for those taking the Technician class at RCT and are tested at RCT. After discussion the Board felt due to circumstances of the clubhouse being closed and no training currently that we waive the RCT Training element. Mike-W7MKE moved that we allow promotional membership for those who take the testing at RCT until such time that the RCT classes can resume. Motion seconded by Bruce-WE7P. Discussion followed and motion passed. Additional discussion was to clarify that this policy was for first time licensees only, not for those upgrading.

Library (AD7AV)

No report

Training (AD7AB)

No report

VE Report (John-AC7WW)

Phil-K7PIA estimated about 20 people were tested last session with most passing at least one element.

Info Tech and Website (Randy-WB4SPB)

All systems are functioning within normal and expected parameters. The website is up and sometimes generating questions that Randy then responds to. Please contact Randy if anything on the website is amiss.

Juan asked what he should tell new members about access to RCT Radios. New members are advised that currently there is no access to the club radios except by appointment.

HF Operations (Phil - K7PIA)

Nothing much going on as club is closed. See Contestcalendar.com for upcoming contests. ARRL International Side Band is this weekend. Also various state QSO parties coming up.

Repeater Ops (Al -N7OMS)

There is a request from Anderson Island Amateur Radio Club to use the 145.210 repeater for their ARES group, Fridays at 16:00. If allowed, Al suggests that they should include a mention that they are using a W7DK repeater. Consensus was that it is an open repeater so they can use it. They should be advised that several RCT members are involved with ARES and might be a resource for them too.

Discussion continued about a need for a new 147.280 repeater that requires less specialized repair knowledge and/or access to spare parts. Al was asked to bring to the Board (via email) the concerns and options of upgrading the repeater(s).

Facilities Mgmt (Adam W2NCC)

Adam learned today that the clubhouse door locks are not working, possibly the batteries may need replacing. Mike-W7XTZ was going to go check the doors out tomorrow.

Adam has worked up a list of things/projects to do and will be contacting helpers for those soon.

Property Mgmt (Red -WB7EC)

PMT took in $XXX in February. $XXX was from the tube sales. Randy indicated that someone has contacted him about an item for sale in the BARK and Adam indicated he could help with that.

Museum (Rich -KR7W)

KR7W (nothing)

Al- N7OMS Can only add that the Museum group is moving forward on a limited basis on several projects. We continue to cull items from north attic storage and review equipment for possible restoral.

Weds Workshop (Randy- WB4SPB)

No topic as yet. Randy will notify people when a topic is decided.

General Meeting Program (Verna - KF7SCB)

Doug Oakman AD7AV with present next meeting: Probing the Past, Looking to the Future: The W7DK Library and Archives as a Unique Resource for Maintaining Amateur Radio Vitality

For April, Verna suggested we do the program on FD Rules and RCT plans. This was agreed as a good idea.

Unfinished Business

Nothing offered and once again the status on the 14th street encroachment is the letter Doug Schafer-AB7DG wrote to the City.

New Business

Steve AD7YD: Who's taking messages on the clubhouse phone? Mike-W7XTZ indicated we should change the message to something indicating the phone is not monitored and may be awhile for an answer, an alternative for them would be to send an email. Mike-W7MKE indicated he would monitor the phone. Why do we have a landline anyway? Inertia, always had one. Also, might possibly be a secondary way to control the repeater, although it is not currently used that way. Also, it is important for 911 calls—auto information about location to 911 center.

George-K7GRS asked us to look forward to Fall when we need new Salmon Run, membership renewal, ID cards and elections. Juan KJ7GGB was told he would not be responsible for these items. George suggested several possible ways to accomplish some of these issues and suggested we form a committee to address these issues.

Committee for fall activities: Mike-W7XTZ chairperson, Dave-W7UUU, George-K7GRS, Peter-AD7EU, Juan –KJ7GGB and Phil-K7PIA indicated they would help on this committee.

Activity Reports and Discussion Topics

Make it an agenda item at the General Meeting to ask club members to contribute to the W7DK FD score.

Verna-KF7SCB suggested that the April general meeting be to go over the FD rules.

Last weekend Phil-K7PIA worked the NAQP RTTY contest, making about 75 contacts, mostly on 40M.

Announcements

George-K7GRS became an octogenarian

Dave-W7UU updated about his garage/shack that is still under repair with long waits for inspections.

Adjournment

Mike-W7MKE moved to adjourn and this was seconded by Verna-KF7SCB.

Meeting adjourned at 20:30 local.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Drorbaugh-W7MKE

Radio Club of Tacoma General Meeting

March 13, 2021 ZOOM MEETING

Officers and Directors Present:

President Mike Mikuchonis W7XTZ

Vice President Adam Barbera W2NCC

Secretary Mike Drorbaugh W7MKE

Treasurer Steve Dightman AF7YD

Board Verna Lilly KF7SCB

Board Phil Pia K7PIA

Board Paul Matney K7PFU

Board Red Cranefield WB7EC

Board Bruce Hansen WE7P

Meeting Called to Order at: 13:30 Local by President Mike-W7XTZ

Quorum? (Requires 10% of voting members to conduct business)

A quorum for business was not available but 23 people attended all or part of the meeting.

Welcome and Acknowledgement of New Members and Visitors (Please introduce yourselves)

No new members identified themselves. But Jerry Hathaway K7ETU who now lives in Roseburg, Oregon was present.

Health and Welfare/Silent Key & Illness

Nick K7MO is home and recovering from open heart surgery. He's doing well and in good spirits.

Secretary's Report

Usual stuff came in**.** A final copy of our Property Insurance came in from our local agent. All insurance is now paid, property tax paid and correspondence is current. I've learned via Doug Schaffer-AB7DG that our IRS 990-N statement for non- profits was not filed for 2019. This was news to me and Mike Finney as we thought it had been done but IRS had no record so apparently the filing was deficient. I filed for 2020 and there is no penalty for not filing or late filing unless you miss three years in a row.

Treasurer's Report

This year, core expenses (stuff we must pay) will be about $XXXXXX. So far we've spent about $XXXX. We're down about $XXXX expenses over income to date but usually at this time of year we'd have Mike & Key to offset that spending. Never-the-less, we are in sound shape financially.

Committee / Activity Reports

Membership (KJ7GGB)

George- K7GRS reported that membership stands at 248.

Library Report (AD7AV)

Doug-AD7AV deferred most library information for the later program but mentioned that he asked the RCT BOD for a budget of $200 for this year and has spent about $168.

Training (AD7AB)

No report

VE Report (AC7WW)

Fourteen candidates were served at two sessions at the clubhouse parking lot on Tuesday March 9th, 2021. Eighteen exams were graded with ten Technicians joining the Amateur Service. Four Technicians upgraded to General. Thanks to the following for their service and time. Jan K7HTU, Rich KK7VH and Stephen AD7AB

The next scheduled test session is Tuesday April 13th, 2021.

HF Operations (K7PIA)

Club is closed and so no activity of note. Phil checks about once a month. Contesting: Check www. Contestcalendar.com for upcoming events. Some state QSO parties are upcoming,

Repeater Operations (N7OMS)

Mike-W7XTZ indicated that we may need to spend some money for new repeater equipment sometime in the near future. This is because the club repeaters are aging and very few club members are willing or know how to maintain them. Additionally, parts are becoming scarce or not available. Newer repeaters have easier repairs and service and parts are available.

IT Report (WB4SPB)

All systems are operating nominally.

Museum (KR7W)

No report

Property Management (WB7EC)

Red WB7EC updated the membership on his remodeling activities. Last month donations were $XXX mostly due to $XXX in tube sales. PMT has a couple of sales pending for this month. Red wants to add some stuff to the sales list and may have some stuff put out for the DEN gathering next Saturday.

Facilities Management (W2NCC)

Adam W2NCC worked up a project list and with weather improving he will organize some work parties for general maintenance of the clubhouse.

4th Wed. Night Activity (WB4SPB)

No program decided on as yet.

Bark Editor (WG7X)

Last month's BARK was a bit light so always looking for BARK content, large or small, good or bad. Thanks for helping.

Unfinished Business

Nothing offered

New Business

Mike W7XTZ brought up that the BOD decided to impanel an ad hoc committee for possible ways to deal with: Salmon Run, ID Cards, elections and membership renewals. In the past these have been handled by George-K7GRS as Membership Chairperson and they are not all strictly membership duties and constitute considerable work.

Program (KF7SCB & AD7AV)

Doug Oakman's AD7AV presentation was: Probing the Past, Looking to the Future: The W7DK Library and Archives as a Unique Resource for Maintaining Amateur Radio Vitality. An excellent 30-minute program on our library history and resources.

Show and Tell

Mike-W7XTZ showed a battery backup for his portable devices.

Tuning and Traffic

Phil K7PIA made about 75 contacts on NAQP RTTY last weekend, mostly on 40M.

Announcements

Following the program Mike-W7XTZ thanked Doug AD7AV for his presentation and then read a special dedication to Doug Oakman, wherein the RCT Research Library was dedicated to Douglas Oakman, PhD. AD7AV. Adam W2NCC showed the plaque that will be displayed in the research library.

QSO Today, Virtual Ham Expo March 13-14.

Come celebrate the Donut Eaters Net (DEN) 1-year anniversary next Saturday 3-20-21. Gary-WG7X our DEN net control will be live at the Clubhouse at 10:00. Most of the gathering is for outside with food, donuts and coffee available. Bring your for sale or trade radio items for a micro-mini Hamfest. PMT may display some items for sale. Please be considerate of those not yet vaccinated or especially vulnerable and wear your mask!

Adjournment at 14:38 Local Respectfully submitted, Mike Drorbaugh-w7MKE RCT Secretary

My Experience in Joining Radio Club of Tacoma or what can I do to help?

Mike-W7MKE

Believe it or not, I'm a fairly new member of RCT. I joined in February 2016 before I got my ticket! I was always interested in what was called shortwave radios and shortwave listening (which as we know is actually HF listening), and in CB radio in the 70's. However, life happened and I didn't have time or resources. Now, years later I have both the time and resources toward a meaningful hobby. What does that have to do with joining RCT? I'll get to it.

I expect my first visits to the clubhouse were like many of your experiences. Not many people greeted me and I don't think anyone showed me around but I'm a bit bolder than most so I kind of just sat there and joined in conversations. I found that most of the guys, it was almost always guys, would visit with me, but hey, they didn't know me either so it takes some time to make new friends. So my advice, stick with it and I think you'll have a good experience and make new friends. I'm almost positive that since I joined (not because of it) that club members are much more likely to take a new member or visitor under their wing to show around and introduce them. If you have an interest, express it and you'll probably find a kindred soul to share it with.

I think another thing that got me going, was I ***joined***. By "joining" I don't mean I paid my dues, I mean I got involved, I helped. In my opinion, if a club is worth joining, it is worth supporting with your efforts if you want it to thrive and be there for you and others. I came to the monthly meetings, I went to the Board Meetings, I showed up for 4th Wednesday Technical offerings and I, most importantly, offered to help. I was picked up by George Salisbury K7GRS to work with him on membership. George was a great source of information about history, procedures, and other members. And "Membership" included doing Salmon Run, Elections, as well as Membership renewals—all those take some time and effort. We need some membership helpers now as George is retiring after may long years of service and our new chairperson is not planning to carry all those duties himself, and he shouldn't have to.

Because I showed up all the time, I was asked to take on other tasks to help out. Facilities maintenance—all you homeowners do it: you can mow grass, run a weed eater, trim hedges and haul off the brush; you can pressure wash and paint, you can clean. Please never think that $30-$35 a year is all that's needed from you. Annual membership dues are less than 1/2 of the money needed to keep the clubhouse doors open. There was about a year, where I came into the club almost every Monday and just cleaned. No one asked me to do it, some noticed, some didn't but it helped and that's what was important to me and to the club. It takes a lot of labor and our club with over 250 members is often short of helpers. So, if you're asked, please ***join***. If you're not asked, please approach Adam Barbera W2NCC and ask what is needed. Likewise, check out the various committees and contact the committee chair to see if you can help there.

There are others who just show up and do. They keep the place going with their generous donations of time and effort. A recent need was identified to replace the fluorescent lighting with new more efficient LED lighting. It involved some light effort on the parts of a couple of guys who typically have been leaders in keeping things bright and shiny at RCT. I hope many more of you will join Rich KR7W and Al N7OMS in keeping our club healthy. Adam will soon be looking for volunteers to get the clubhouse in shape for our grand post-COVID-19 opening. Committee chairs and others will need help to so please consider ***joining***.

March 18, 2021 AL-N7OMS

March 18 2021 Rich, KR7W

March 2021 Rich, KR7W's contribution!

Upper left: Mike W7XTZ (Club Prez!) operating out of his car in the W7DK parking lot.

Middle left, Phil K7PIA also operating from Mike's car in the W7DK parking lot.

Top right, dipole antenna: not sure what band?

Bottom right, long shot of the Prez, Mike freezing out in the weather!

APRIL RCT SURPLUS

VIRUS DONATION 2021

Contact RED WB7EC at E-MAIL(bruce-ec@hotmail.com) to reserve/make offer on

Any item

DONATION

18. Yaesu HF PWR AMP FT-2100B (80 meters in op) $300.00

25. Kenwood XTAL Filter YG-455C-1 $50.00

41. Suitcase with Tektronix scope camera $50.00

84. Comet Triplexer CFX-514 $40.00

19. Elecraft HF XCVR K1 TWO bands 15/40 /AT $ 300.00

125. Kenwood TR-9000 2MTR XCVR $ 100.00

127. Mirage 2 meter mobile amp B-1016G $ 150.00

138. Kenwood HF RX R-599D SN: 530265 UNDER REPAIR

147. DX Engineering Remote Coax Control Switch CC-8 $ 400.00

148. DX Engineering Coax Switch RR8-HP P/O #147

149. Kenwood HF XCVR TS-930S SN: 2120327 $ 600.00

150. Kenwood Speaker SP 930 P/O #149

151. Kenwood MIC MC-60 P/O #149

156. MFJ Active Antenna MFJ-1020C $60.00

157. MFJ Dual Speech Enhancer MFJ-618 $150.00

166. Mirage VHF 6 MTR AMP a-1015G $ 200.00

167. Vectronics Antenna Tuner mod HFT 1500 $ 300.00

174. CDE Rotor Control H-IV/CD-45-II $ 50.00

180. Rig Blaster plug & play Digital mode interface $. 30.00

181. Emerson speaker $. 5.00

182. Archer rotor control PN: 15-1220 $. 5.00 183. Wilson WR50U rotor control $ 7.00

184. ICOM IC-H19s2 VHF hand held/ BM-70 charger $ 7.00

185. two Amateur TV stations in portable boxes $ 500.00 for both/300.00 each

186A. Sony DCR-HC 42 camera case $ 50.00

186B. Sony DCR-HC 42 camera case $ 50.00 186A/B $ 75.00

189. Motorola MFR M12 L box $ 5.00

190. Motorola MSRS 12 Regulator box $ 5.00

191. F2A85-V motherboard $ 3.00

194. Zenith old Radio not complete $ 20.00

195. Zenith old radio complete $ 30.00

198. Philco old radio $ 10.00

200. Home made test set $ 10.00

201. Patrolman Pro 2 receiver $ 5.00

202. Aldenmarine Fax IV $ 30.00

205. COMP USA 250 watt ATX power supply $ 10.00

206. COMP USA 250 watt ATX power supply $ 10.00

212. Lafayette Speaker model 99-2571 $ 30.00

215. Blue box with 4 headsets $ 20.00

223. Kenwood 2/220 mobile XCVR TM-621A,no mic/pwr cable $ 50.00

226. B & W Antenna Tuner VS300A $ 90.00

227. Elecraft HF XCVR KX3 # 10797,NEW in BOX/extra parts $ 900.00

229. MFJ Artificial GND MFJ-931 $ 90.00

230 MFJ Noise Cancelling Signal Enhancer MFJ-1026 $ 150.00

231. MFJ Dual Channel Speech Enhancer MFJ-618 $ 180.00

232. Murch Transmatch/Antenna Tuner UT-2000A 3.5-30MHZ $ 100.00

234. MFJ RF Preselector II MFJ-1040 $ 40.00

235. MFJ Active Antenna MFJ-1020A $ 40.00

236. Heathkit Antenna Noise Bridge HD-1422A $ 20.00

237. Heathkit Speaker SB-600 $ 100.00

238. MFJ Morse Key Board Keyer MFJ-452/HP Keyboard $ 100.00

239. Drake HF Receiver R-4C (early model) SN: 16553 $350.00 for SET 240 & 241

240. Drake HF Transmitter T-4X SN: 13105B $ P/O 239

241. Drake Speaker/PS MS-4 $ P/O 239

242. ICOM VHF XCVR IC-211/no mic $ 200.00

243. Alinco VHF Handheld XCVR DJ-196T $ 45.00

244. Vertex VHF Handheld XCVR VX-150 $ 45.00

245. Heathkit HF Receiver SB-301 $ 150.00

246. Heathkit Speaker SB-600 $ 100.00

249. Kenwood Power Supply KPS-12 $ 50.00

251. Vista Inverter 12VDC to 115VAC $ 15.00

252. Icom HF XCVR IC-720A $ 350.00

253. Icom Power Supply IC-PS15 $ P/O 252

254. Icom Microphone IC-SM5 $ P/O 252

255. NYE Viking Keyer SSK-1-K $ 35.00

256. Icom HF XCVR IC-735 $ 450.00

257. Icom Power Supply PS-55 $ P/O 256

258. Icom HF Tuner AT-150 $ P/O 256

259. Icom Microphone IC-SM6 $ P/O 256

261.

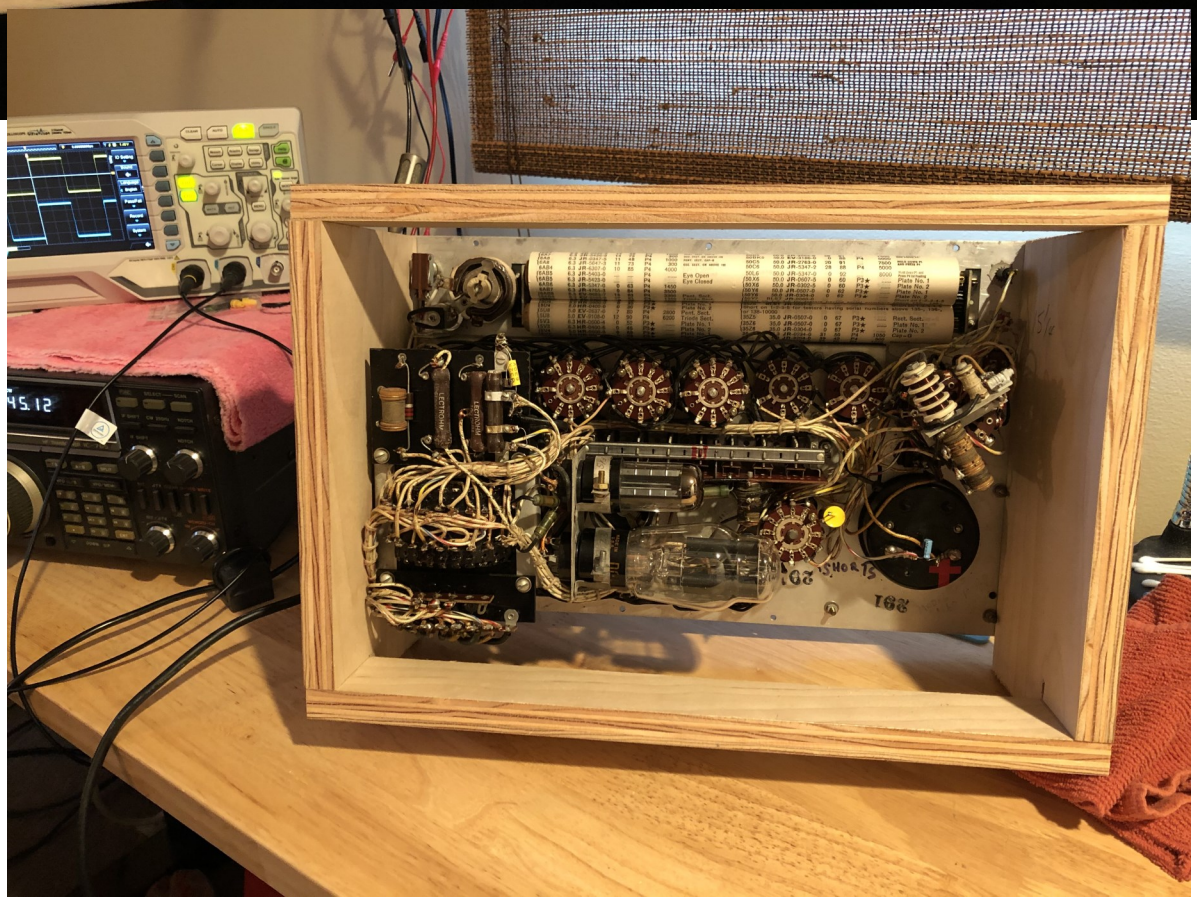
AS OF 27 MAR 2021

MAILBAG!

First up: Al, N7OMS

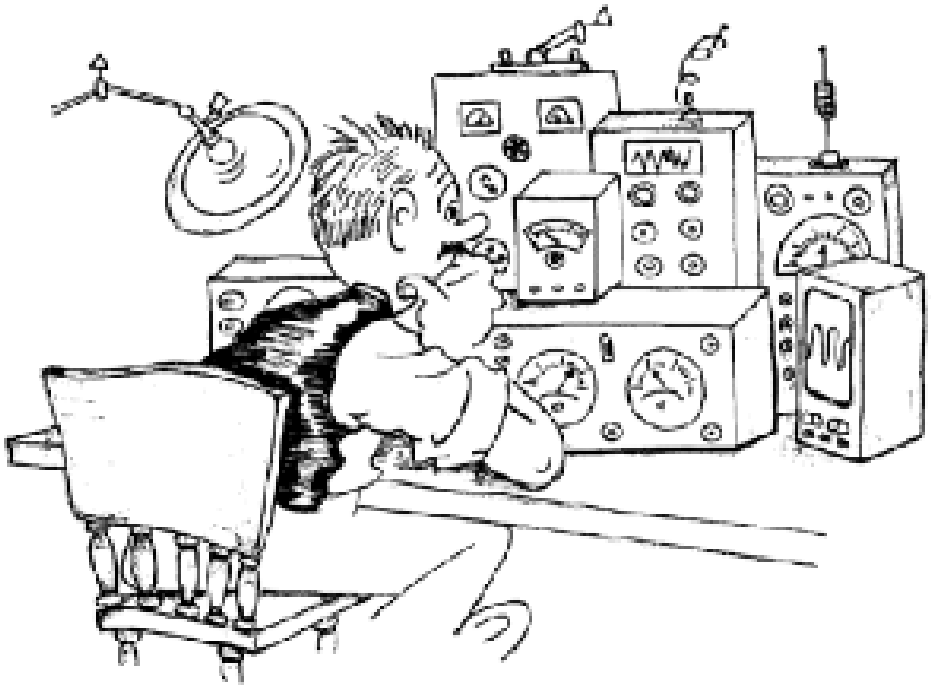
Your museum staff at W7OS has not let Covid completely stop progress on several projects at the Club House. See in these pictures a restored Hickok Tube tester Model 605 complete with Volt, Ohm and Capacitance meter. These are highly sought after as they will also test mutual conductance which can give you an overall idea of whether the tube under test is probably good or bad.

W7OS
7076
VOLTS & MILS
REPLACE
GOOD
BIAS
ENGLISH
SHORTS
FILAMENT
METER
REVERSE
NORMAL
ANALYZER
SELECTORS
FILAMENT
FILAMENT
GRID
PLATE
SCREEN
CATHODE
SUPPRESSOR
FUSE
CHART
A.C.V.
D.C.V.
VOLTS OHMS MILS CAP
COMMON
LINE ADJUST
ON
OFF
MODEL 605 Micromho DYNAMIC MUTUAL CONDUCTANCE TUBE TESTER AND ANALYZER
HICKOK
MADE IN U.S.A.
U.S. PAT. NO. 1,999,858



Up next: Bob K7MXE:

Just a bit of hard earned wisdom this month from K7MXE !
We all have lusted over fiberglass tent poles that come army surplus and just one word of wisdom: these are for temporary use only and can not be left out in the weather for a period of time as trust me they will fail. Second note is to always use gloves as fiberglass splinters do hurt. I left them out to see how my wood base unit would hold up and only got blown over once but with one less at 23 feet held up ok till I had to move it and then they all exploded.



Finally, A good one courtesy of Rich, KR7W

The Club LINEUP

Club Officers

President: Mike Mikuchonis –W7XTZ w7xtz©w7dk.org

Vice Pres: Adam Barbera, W2NCC - w2ncc©w7dk.org

Secretary: Mike Drorbaugh W7MKE - w7mke@w7dk.org

Treasurer: Steve Dightman, AF7YD - af7yd©w7dk.org

5 Board Members

Bruce Hanson, WE7P - we7p©w7dk.org

Paul Matney, W7PFU - w7pfu©w7dk.org

Verna Lilly KF7SBC- KF7SCB©w7dk.org

Red Cranefield, WB7EC - wb7ec©w7dk.org

Phil Pia, K7PIA - k7pia©w7dk.org

The Logger's Bark is the *OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE RADIO CLUB OF TACOMA*… and is published by RCT, PO Box 11188, Tacoma, WA 98411. The Radio Club of Tacoma is a non-profit corporation as defined by law. All proceeds will be used exclusively for charitable and educational purposes. The Radio Club of Tacoma's Club House is located at 1249 Washington St, Tacoma, WA 98405, phone: 253-759-2040.

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The Fine Print: The Logger's Bark is published once a month for the membership of The Radio Club of Tacoma or interested ham radio enthusiasts. The Bark is delivered by PDF file on the club's website: www.w7dk.org.

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Membership Info: FULL (licensed) and ASSOCIATE (non licensed) membership is $35 per calendar year or $30 for Licensed Seniors (65 and over). Licensed family members at same address pay $20 each for the first two and are free for the third, fourth, and so on. Full-time students, licensed or non licensed, up to age 25 are $20 per year. Note: fees are applicable for the calendar year: Jan to Dec. Lifetime membership is 20 times the yearly fee you are eligible for. Lifetime memberships are calculated based on the FULL and ASSOCIATE rates.

www.w7dk.org [LINK] - For the latest and most current information on events and activities, visit the Radio Club of Tacoma Website.

Radio Club Repeaters

Central Tacoma: 147.280 + PL=103.5

Crawford Mountain 147.380 + PL=103.5 (E of Olympia © 1500 ft ASL)

Central Tacoma: 440.625 + PL=103.5

North Tacoma: 145.21 – PL=141.3